

- (iii) providing holding means for
- (a) holding the tensioning means;
 - (b) locally adjusting holding pressure on the tensioning means; and
 - (c) feeding the tensioning means into position after the film has been attached to the suction chamber.

9. A method according to claim 8 in which the tensioning means is a rod.
10. A method according to claim 9 in which the rod is of circular cross section.
11. A method according to claim 10 in which the rod is a tube.
12. A method according to claim 11 in which the tube is a semi-rigid tube.
13. A method according to claim 8 in which the holding means has a first portion for extending over the tensioning means, and a second portion for extending under the suction chamber.
14. A thin film mirror produced by the method according to claim 8.

REMARKS

The Applicants appreciate the Examiner's thorough review of this application. Reconsideration and re-examination are respectfully requested in view of the instant amendments and remarks.